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practitioner's book, and as such, contains full precedents of instructions and quotations selected from the approved opinions of the courts. Necessarily much space is devoted to the consideration of the confused question of the relative provinces of the court and the jury. That question is discussed with reference to a great variety of cases in which it arises. For many, the value of the work would be increased had the size been diminished by condensing or excluding the general treatment of certain subjects, such as malicious prosecution and implied contracts, which are only indirectly related to the main purposes of the book, and for a full treatment of which one would naturally look to other treatises.

The work contains a satisfactory index and a full table of cases cited.

A. C. R.

A SELECTION OF CASES ON THE LAW OF QUASI-CONTRACTS. By William A. Keener. Cambridge: Charles W. Sever, 1888. 8vo. 2 vols. Pages 541 and 658.

This collection of cases, designed especially for use in the Harvard Law School, is evidently the result of a careful and incisive search into the subject of quasi-contracts,—that branch of the law which is midway between contracts and torts, and which has hitherto received little systematic treatment. The term “quasi-contracts” is used to include all so-called “contracts implied in law.” They are really not contracts at all, but are simply obligations imposed by law under certain circumstances. Without some guiding principles to determine when the law will impose such obligations, the decisions present merely a bewildering tangle of apparent inconsistencies. The logical application, however, of the simple doctrine that the law will not permit one man unjustly to enrich himself at another's expense, goes far to clear up the difficulties of a large class of cases. This doctrine of unjust enrichment is well illustrated by the cases selected. They deal with failure of consideration arising from mistake of law or fact, or from inability, in certain instances, to enforce a special contract; with benefits conferred with or without the request of the defendant; with duress, legal and equitable; and with waiver of tort.

It is to be hoped that the author will soon treat the subject further in the text-book promised in the preface.

E. I. S.